

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-885-55-00

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



REMARKS BY

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA AMERICA WEEK 2012 OPENING PRESS CONFERENCE

**JANUARY 30, 2012 AT 09:00 AM
CHITTAGONG**

Good morning!

Good morning, Mr. Mayor!

Good morning, Chittagong!

America has come ... America has come to Chittagong!

For the next three days, America Week is here in this beautiful port city, gateway to the nation.

We are here to tell the story of America to the good citizens of Chittagong; we are here to tell of America's deepening support for the wondrous people of Bangladesh as they build a peaceful, secure, prosperous, healthy and democratic Bangladesh.

And we are here to learn about Chittagong and the people of this exciting, thriving city, Bangladesh's second largest.

We are here to meet people, to get to know people, to reach out to people across all sectors of society, to have face-to-face interaction with the citizens of Chittagong.

"Moving Forward Together" is the theme of this year's America Week ... and it is the guiding principle of America's partnership with Bangladesh. This partnership is strong and getting stronger. Over the next five years, America will invest nearly \$1 billion in this partnership as we work to help Bangladesh improve the lives of its citizens, most especially the children.

America's partnership with Bangladesh has so many facets: health of pregnant women and mothers of children; health of newborns and older children; fighting TB and HIV/AIDS;

helping families have the ability to have the size of family they want; improving food security through increased agricultural production, greater access to food and better nutrition; adapting to the effects of climate change; expanding the use of clean cookstoves; strengthening the nation's emerging democratic institutions; fostering improved civil-military relations; building capacity to defend the nation's maritime and land borders; teaching English; sending professionals and young people on exchanges to America; and the list goes on and on.

But I think I have made my point: America is committed to Bangladesh and the people of this nation. I come to Bangladesh to further broaden, deepen and strengthen this partnership, and I commit myself to do everything that I can to this end.

You will learn much more about America's partnership with Bangladesh as you work your way through the exhibit hall, which we will officially open in a couple of minutes.

As I close, I wish to thank all of those who helped make America Week in Chittagong possible, especially the Executive Committee of the Chattagram M.A. Aziz Stadium for making this wonderful facility available to us. And I wish to thank you, Mr. Mayor, and all the citizens of Chittagong for your generous hospitality and help in making America Week 2012 a grand success.

Thank you.

=====

GR/ 2012